

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1436
MAGI # 0314363601

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bolton House

AND/OR COMMON

State's Attorney's Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 W. Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

2nd Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Baltimore County

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5073 - 165
1134 - 269
Folio #: WPC 590 - 25
see attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE Jan., 1978

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a wood frame structure built on a stone foundation 2½ stories high with a basement and six bays deep. A chimney is visible toward the right center of the roof line, looking at north side. The house is a huge high mass with assymetrical and intersecting roof lines, merging gables, shed dormers, and bay-like swell projections on the sides. The main body of the house appears to have been added to in the rear (south side), and porches at the north side of the house have been enclosed for use as office space. A 1939 aerial view of Towson⁽¹⁾ shows this house clearly on the east side, and reveals that a one story porch was there, but it too is now enclosed.

The north facade is dominated by a four sided hipped roof tower, rising from the attic level, and a longitudinal gable. The west corner of the front, first floor only, is clipped so the wall is at a 45 degree angle to the north and west facades, as though a triangular section were removed leaving the second story overhanging. Entrance is gained through a doorway somewhat to the left of center on the north side.

Fenestration is somewhat irregular, in keeping with the assymetrical massing of shapes that make up this house. All windows appear to be original and are 1/1 wooden sash double hung. The gables on the southern and eastern facades are vented by two 9 pane stationary panels. A distinct feature of the house are the two semi-circular 30 glass panel windows which vent the tower on the northern and eastern sides. A colorful stained glass window, approximately 36" wide and 18" high is inserted on the first story of a 3 sided western pavilion.

At present, the entire exterior is covered by 8" beige aluminum siding in imitation of clapboarding, and no special surface detail or variance in texture is visible. However, a 1975 photograph of the eastern facade reveals details that are probably now covered by the aluminum.¹ For instance, the swell and bay projections on this side were covered with clapboards. The tower and gable end were covered with shingles, and to the right and left of the gable vent windows, there was wooden fan like detailing. Currently the only original exterior siding to be seen is in the north side entrance, where drop siding is visible. This would also support the idea that there was a large front porch, long since enclosed. The 1975 picture shows what was typical exterior treatment for a Queen Anne style house, since different surfaces received different types of materials, and the upper stories were distinguished from the lower in this manner.

The present roof is of white asphalt shingles, and these are certainly a replacement.

Since this building now houses the Maryland State's Attorneys Office for Baltimore County, only the first floor was open without special permission. Here, the original walls and ceilings are covered with modern materials, as were some of the floors. However three fireplace mantels were visible, apparently little changed from their original state. One was a large wooden Eastlake type which

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

201 West Chesapeake

Towson, Maryland

Item #7 continued

dominates the corner of a room on the east side of the house. The other two were back to back in the double parlors in the northwest part of the house. These were of dark green and black marble and dark green and red ceramic tiles. Their function was to contain a gas heater, not to serve as an actual fireplace. Consequently the fireboxes are of carved slate with a rosette and foliage pattern.

The double parlor can be separated by sliding wooden doors which retract into the walls. The doors and windows appear to be original, and are cased with a 4½" reeded mouldings with bull's eye corner blocks. Two of the first floor doors, both of them 4 panel, were apparently false grained, and are still in excellent condition.

The entire first floor serves as office space and hearing rooms, and houses about ten people. The bathrooms have been modernized. The extent of the remodeling were most evident at the south end (rear) of the house, and little original fabric was visible here.

- 1 Picture from Towson A Pictorial History of an American Town
By H. George Hahn and Carl Behm III
picture is at upper right corner of page 200.

The aerial photograph mentioned with a 1939 date can be found under the heading "Towson" in the vertical file in the Maryland Room at the Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☒ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES After 1877, Prior 1898 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Unknown at present

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an excellent example of a rural Queen Anne style residence, which though somewhat remodeled inside and out, still retains the asymmetrical massing and characteristics of this style. The interior, at least the first floor, retains important period details such as door and window mouldings, mortise and tenon doors, fireplace mantels, floors and windows. This house, along with the remaining four on the block, preserve the essence of the streetscape across from the Baltimore County Courthouse, and give a lingering idea of what the area must have looked like seventy to ninety years ago. Unlike the modern behemoths of current architecture, this block says something of the human scale and proportion that was once inherent in the buildings of Towson. Now it is only a vestige.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESTowson by H.G. Hahn and C. Behm III1898 Atlas of Baltimore County G.W. Bromley1915 -----Primary sources --land records at Baltimore County Courthouse
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 95' X 155'**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. N'ELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.Phillip R. Lord (volunteer)

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson Inc.

DATE

January 1978

STREET & NUMBER

120 Allegheny Avenue

TELEPHONE

823-3588

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Item #5 continued

Liber/folio
date

Grantee
Grantor

5073/165
February 1970

Baltimore County, Maryland
William and Ellen Bolton

1134/269
November 14, 1940

William Bolton
Edmund Burke

WPC 590/25
March 31, 1924

Edmund Burke
Albert S. Cook

NBM 247/153
July 2, 1900

Albert S. Cook
Grafton S. Bosley

NBM 242/468
February 3, 1900

Grafton S. Bosley
Milton Offutt

JWS 170/256
June 26, 1888

Milton Offutt
Eben B. Hunting

JWS 153/271
October 12, 1886

Eben B. Hunting
Granville Wilson

WML 136/532
June 28, 1884

Granville Wilson
Louisa Vinton

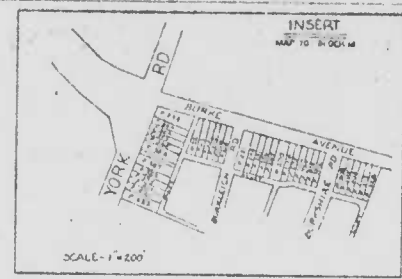
1877 Hopkins Baltimore County Atlas shows lot at 201 W. Chesapeake as belonging to F.L. Vinton. There is no building indicated on lot at this date.

It has been documented that Towson owes much of its character to the fact that it grew as a "19th century court house town." It was complete with a courthouse on a large green surrounded by banks, lawyers' offices, a jail and some rather fine and fashionable residences. There are some visual documents of this fact remaining, but modern development has fragmented the blocks around the square, leaving these links with the past often isolated from one another and dwarfed in scale.

The single row of houses on the south side of the 200 block of Chesapeake Avenue, however, do provide a continuous streetscape that is the last row of 19th century residences on that street inside of the loop road. Dramatically juxtaposed to the New Courts Building, they provide an opportunity to realize the more human scale that this rural town possessed until only recently. The same row of buildings also provides examples of various late 19th century architectural styles and although they are now used for offices, they demonstrate a good deal about residential activity in Towson.

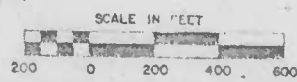
No. 203 W. Chesapeake Avenue is a rambling multi-directional building that shows the influence of the Queen Anne style. Modern siding does not offer the various textures one might expect but the tower, bay windows, polygonal projections and various shaped windows do provide the variety of forms typical of that style. In Numbers 205, 207 and 209, however, we see what was once three nearly identical houses that are not as organic in appearance. On the contrary they are much more regular in form and expressive of the classical attitude suggested by the Colonial Revival. In these buildings one sees regular fenestration, pedimented porches with slender Doric columns and each is centralized by a prominent central pediment. A curious feature found in all three is the very nice sunburst or fan-shaped design that decorates the bottom corners of the central pediment. Nicely balancing this row of buildings is No. 211 which, like its neighbor at the opposite end of the block, is more Victorian in nature. Its use of shingled gables and clapboards, the "swell front" and high fieldstone foundation are suggestive of the picturesque.

W. Chesapeake Ave.
201



TOWSON
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP PROGRAM
This map was prepared by the Department of Assessments & Taxation, Baltimore County, Maryland, in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Map Act of 1988, Chapter 100, of the Laws of 1988, and the Tax Map Act of 1990, Chapter 100, of the Laws of 1990. The map is a true and correct copy of the original map as filed with the Department of Assessments & Taxation.



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

BA-1436

MAP NO
70A



BA-1436

CHESS
201 W. BOSTON AVE.
N.E. CORNER

W. NIEED
1/78



BA-1436

201 W. CHESAPEAKE Ave
S.W. CORNER

W. NiccD
1/78



BA-1436

201 W. ^{CNES}~~BA-7~~ AVE.
S.

W. NIELD
1/78